

JOURNAL OF INDUSTRY.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 1879.

ORGAN OF
The North Carolina Industrial Association.

A Monthly Paper, Devoted to the Material, Intellectual, Moral, Social, Spiritual, Physical and Financial Interests of the Colored People.

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ADVERTISING RATES:
One Square, one insertion, \$.50
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The name and address of the writer must accompany them, not for publication, unless desired, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot preserve nor return manuscripts.

The editors of this paper are not responsible for the sentiments of correspondents.

All business letters pertaining to the Association or the Exposition, must be directed to the Secretary.

We will be pleased to effect an exchange with any paper, and will give the benefit of an "ad." if it will return the courtesy.

OUR POSITION.

In making our debut in the field of journalism, perhaps it would be well for us to define the limits of the realm in which we intend, at liberty, to roam. We will state that this is the organ of the North Carolina Industrial Association: an organization chartered by the Legislature of this State for the purpose of holding annual expositions, by which the colored people may exhibit to a world their progress—under the broadegis of freedom—in agriculture, mechanism, invention, education, science, etc., and that they may all be encouraged to higher endeavors in the various departments of human affairs. In view of this fact, our columns will be devoted to whatever tends to promote these interests. We propose to steer clear of politics, sectarianism, personalities, and the like, and apply our exertions to the improvement of our industrial, intellectual, moral, social, physical and financial resources. Therefore we hope our correspondents will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

TO THE WHITE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH.

The Industrial Exposition which we propose holding next fall offers a fine opportunity to our white friends for an exhibition of their interest in the material and educational welfare of the race. Indeed, we hardly think that they could contribute more effectively to the development of a higher standard of citizenship among the colored race than by aiding them in this excellent enterprise. From them we hope to secure no small share of our premiums. And as they have already manifested a very deep interest in the project we do not believe that we will be forced to lead a forlorn hope with regard to them. Their appreciation of our fidelity to them, both as slaves and as freedmen, is too genuine to permit them to withhold whatever assistance they are capable of rendering. They have not forgotten the fact that we remained faithful to the trust confided in us during the dark and bloody era of this country's history, and that we patiently served them in the capacity of slave until we were granted our freedom. Neither are they oblivious of the fact that, although our liberties were purchased at the expense of their defeat, our general conduct has been of such as to provoke not only their surprise, but commendation. They know, too, that we have gone into the very jaws of death—"into the mouth of hell"—to rescue their property from the ravages of that most destructive element—fire. They know, too, that when sickness, sorrow, pain and death begin the work of devastation among them, that

we have ever been a present help. And after all this, to suppose that they would allow this call for their assistance to pass unheeded, would be an imputation upon their liberality which we do not believe Southern manhood deserves. Therefore we hopefully rely upon the aid which we expect from them, in this effort to develop our material and intellectual resources. Our welfare and their welfare is so indissolubly interwoven, that whatever they do for us, whether it be much or little, will enhance their fortune in the same proportion that it will ours. Because, if by what they do we become better mechanics, which will be a benefit to us, we can do better work, which will be a benefit to them. If we become better farmers, which will be a benefit to us, we will be able to wring from the stubborn soil a larger yield per acre, which will be a benefit to them. If we become better laborers, which will be a benefit to us, we will be able to render better service, which will be a benefit to them. So it is, whatever is our fortune is their fortune, and whatever is our misfortune is their misfortune. Our interests are inseparable. Let what will or may be said of the colonization or exodus scheme,

"There is no place like home."

Theory cannot controvert this stubborn fact. The truth of it has been verified by an experimental knowledge. Hence, this being our home—made so by an inscrutable Providence—and God having willed that our lot should be cast with the white people of the South; and we having been born together, and in many instances nursed by the same hand; and we having been raised together, and in many instances fed from the same spoon, in the language of Hon. John B. Syphax, (member of the Virginia Legislature,) we repeat: "If God decrees that we shall disappear from this continent and go down to the shades of night, let us fall upon soil mellowed by the dust of our forefathers, and in a clime precious with the memory of centuries." Now in view of these things, there is no need of any further endeavor on our part in urging the claims which we hold upon the generosity of our white friends South. We believe they will come to our rescue in this effort to improve the general condition of the race.

We hope our mercenary friends who so liberally patronize, will be second to none in making donations. Messrs. Allen & Co., of Newbern, N. C., were the first to step forward and offer that substantial encouragement which a movement like ours stands in need. Who will be next to do likewise?

LETTER FROM E. R. DUDLEY, ESQ.

Premiums Offered by Messrs. Geo. Allen & Co., of Newbern.

Elsewhere will be found a cheering letter on the subject of our State fair, from the gentleman whose name heads this article. Mr. Dudley is one of the most public spirited men of which the race can boast, in this State. From the reading of his letter it will be seen that he has gone practically to work in the interest of our Exposition. It was through his energy and perseverance, that Messrs. Allen & Co., of Newbern offered the first premiums on products of the soil. If we had a score or more of such earnest co-workers, in different sections, our people throughout the State would be fully and creditably represented in the various departments of industry especially, on the occasion of the exposition. Let some other colored man step forward in the same substantial way, as did Mr. D., and encourage this, the grandest movement ever inaugurated among the colored people. Who next?

We are highly gratified to find, that the colored ladies throughout the State are manifesting a deep interest in the exposition movement. Their support insures success.

TO OUR NORTHERN FRIENDS.

For the colored people to reach that standard of citizenship which will gain for them the lasting consideration and respect of their more favored neighbors, they must not be contented with the fact that they are making rapid strides in the field of letters; but they must make equally as rapid strides in the field of cotton, corn, rice, art, science, etc. To reach that full measure of manhood and womanhood to which they are so earnestly aspiring, they must not only become the proud possessors of a classical education, but they must become the masters of a profitable trade or profession, by which they can secure for themselves a home. To this great work the North Carolina Industrial Association is devoting its every effort. This association will hold an industrial exposition near this city next fall, for the purpose of putting on exhibition, everything and anything, that will reflect credit upon the race, and show to the world, that they are not, as many suppose, an impotent nation of consumers alone, but that they are producers as well. To encourage them to put forth extra exertions the Association will offer a premium for such products as will be exhibited; and that sufficient inducement may be offered to pay them for their trouble and expense, we ask our generous Northern friends to hearken to "the cry from Macedonia"—"come and help us."

OUR YOUNG MEN AND THE INDUSTRIAL FAIR.

Our young men should take hold of this industrial movement with avidity and determination. In no way can they assist more substantially in moulding race character, and promoting race progress and development. And this work is the very best energies of youth. Let our young men step forward, take hold and "go earnest" to work. Upon them depends a satisfactory solution of the great Negro problem.

It may be proper to say, that such a solution is not to be reached at the ballot box. It is to be performed in the field, in the work shop, in the school room at the counting house, in the various professions. It can be accomplished by the rounded periods of windy rhetoric. It is to be done by hard work; then let us up and at it. We have in this state young men of ability, talent and genius. Here is a field for their display. What we say to the young men is equally applicable to our young ladies. They, too, are to labor for the establishment of race character, or the work can never be accomplished. Let us all, young and old of both sexes go to work and prove something.

INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL CHARACTER.

We need character; true, genuine, noble character. We need it as individuals; we need it as a race. Without individual character a person must ultimately fail, without national character failure will be equally as certain. In speaking on this subject, however, we would avoid a common error of accepting reputation as character. Reputation is not character. It is well to be of good repute; but between reputation and character there is a most important distinction. The one is what others think and say of us; the other is, what we really are. Character is that upon which rest all enduring greatness. Reputation unsupported by sound, solid, character would serve as a poor foundation upon which to risk any very great hopes of future usefulness. An individual who commences the active pursuits of manhood with the primary elements of a good character firmly fixed, has already attained the most necessary step in the

course of a high and honorable life.

Thus with the nation. Individual character is that which commands the respect, confidence and honor of our fellow-man, and the communities in which we move. National character is that which commands the respect, confidence and deference of the world. Let us then unite our best efforts in the development of true character. Nothing will so speedily and so effectually remove the difficulties in the way of our progress. Legislative enactment will not do it; conventions, frothy rhetoric and resolutions, will not do it; long petitions setting forth real or imaginary grievances will not do it; the sympathy and help of our friends will not do it; to force a passage to our legitimate place in the grand galaxy of nations, we must produce a character equal to the work. It is well to be reminded, too, that the character of a nation is judged by the value of its productions. Therefore, to establish any valid claim to rank among the great nations of the earth, we must, despite all the disadvantages of our surroundings, make a favorable comparison of our products. We must become producers as well as consumers. We must not grow content at living on the productions of other nations. We must prepare our stone for the temple of human greatness. Then the proper exhibition of any creditable achievement of our race in the various branches of human industry, is a matter of first rate importance to all who would refute the oft-repeated assertion that the negro race has no inherent element of progress. Let us make the North Carolina exposition a convincing proof that such is not the case. If we will but take firm hold of this and all like enterprises, poor, but noble Africa, long benighted and oppressed, will ere long write her signet in characters of unfading lustre upon the proud escutcheon of national greatness.

AN APPEAL TO THE PRESS OF THE COUNTRY—INFORMATION NEEDED.

One of the most formidable obstacles, now confronting the intellectual development of the colored people, is the need of information. It is a common expression, "I do not keep as well posted" as their interests demand. Outside of the text books which they study, they know but little as a rule. They do not read enough of contemporary history to keep up with the times. Therefore their practical knowledge is extremely limited. To surmount this obstacle they must read more. They must make the newspaper, periodical and other publications of a proper character, their fireside companions. The chronic excuse for not having already done so is laid at the door of Poverty.—O Poverty! How oft hast thou been falsely accused?

But this does not agree with the facts in the case. Poverty does not prevent them from spending their money in far less profitable directions than this.

The truth is, their taste for literature has never been sufficiently cultivated, to teach them the worth of the newspaper, the periodical and book, other than for school purposes. Hence, they do not subscribe, so liberally, to these, as to other and oftentimes, less meritorious objects. That they are waking up to a sense of their duty in this direction, the rapid growth of journalism among them verily attests. Now in order to both encourage them in the various departments of industry and education and aid them in the cultivation of a better taste for pure literature, we do most respectfully ask all publishers, proprietors, authors or anybody who are interested in their intellectual elevation, to offer one (or more if they like) copy of their paper, periodical, book etc., for one year, as a premium, on some product of colored ori-

gin. Such a donation, will without doubt, benefit the giver equally as much, as it will the receiver. Because it will naturally create a demand, and that demand must be supplied, and by the law of demand and supply, both parties will be mutually benefitted. Who will be the first to put the ball in motion; speak out? We hope our colored cotemporaries especially, will hearken to this appeal.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

If there is one lesson which we (the colored people) should learn more than another, it is the one which will teach us that "in union there is strength." Let what will or may be said or done in our behalf, there is one thing reduced to a certainty, and that is, we must become more thoroughly united before we can ever get a permanent foot-hold upon this continent as American citizens. Just so long as we continue to cultivate a diversity of opinions and allow the harmony of our actions to be disturbed by low, selfish motives, just so long may we expect to wear the galling yoke, which centuries of servitude has placed upon our necks.

We have reached a stage in our progress, where a unanimity of purpose, sentiment and feeling must characterize all our deliberations, or we must eventually fail. To come directly to the point and "call a spade a spade and a shovel a shovel," some of our worst enemies are to be found within our own ranks; and it would be suicidal on our part were we to attempt to disguise the fact, deplorable as it may appear. "The kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation." So it will be with us, unless we become more united. What we must learn before we can achieve any enduring greatness as a race is, not only to respect ourselves, but also to respect each other; not only work for our own individual elevation to places of profit and trust, but also to work for that of each other; not only to rejoice over our own prosperity, but also to rejoice over that of each other.

When we learn that, "Together we stand, divided we fall," we will have reached a period in our history from which we can date our forward, onward and upward march to that destiny which God has in reserve for all the finally faithful.

And to this end let us unite both our heads and hearts in the effort to make our first exposition a glorious success.

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF NEGRO GENEROSITY TOWARD HIS FORMER OWNERS.

We clip the following from the Christian Recorder:

"The colored ex-Congressman Smalls, of South Carolina, having learned that the lately widowed daughter of his former master was in reduced circumstances, caused her immediate wants to be supplied in a way not to offend, and gave her son, now sixteen years old, an appointment as cadet at the Naval Academy.

The above is from the Washington correspondent of the Richmond, (Va.) State. We rejoice in the providence that made it possible for the honorable Captain to minister to the necessities of one who was in the past his mistress, and equally rejoice at the disposition he manifested toward her."

Here is a practical demonstration of that magnanimity, characteristic of the former slave. It is substantial evidence, that he is not contented simply with doing his part in cultivating the friendly relations which should exist between the races by words alone, but that he is willing to preface his remarks with generous deeds also.

After reading the above, is there a white friend, and especially in North Carolina, who would refuse to lend us a helping hand in our struggle to rise "as a people in the scale of honest fame;" and show to the world that we are not only consumers, but producers? Echo answers no.